

1 Real Functions: Definition, Properties and Examples

A real function is a type of function that **accept real values as input** and **return real values as output** in other words

Real function is a kind of **mapping between two sets of real numbers** namely from set A to set B that follows some important properties mentioned below:

1. **All elements** of set A are associated with elements in the set B .
2. **Each element** of set A is associated with **a unique element** in the set B .

A function from set A to set B is written as

$$f : A \rightarrow B,$$

where

1. The set A is the **domain** denoted by D_f of the function, i.e. **set of input values**

$$\{x : f(x) \text{ exists}\}$$

2. The set B is called the **codomain** of the function which consists of the **output values of the function**.

$$\{f(x) : x \in \text{domain of the function}\}$$

Notation 1 We write

$$\begin{array}{ccc} f : & D_f & \rightarrow J \subset \mathbb{R} \\ & x & \mapsto f(x) \end{array} \quad (1)$$

Remark 2 The notation $f : D_f \rightarrow J \subset \mathbb{R}$ is read as "***f goes from D_f to J*** " and $x \mapsto f(x)$ is read as "***x maps to $f(x)$*** "

Remark 3 We can represent functions in four ways,

1. **visually** (a graph on the xy -plane)

2. **numerically** (using a table of values)
3. **algebraically** (by an explicit formula).

Example 4 Examples of different kinds of real functions are

1. **Trigonometric** Functions: $\sin x, \cos x, \tan x$, etc.
2. **Logarithmic** Functions: $\log(2x + 3), 2 \ln x$, etc.
3. **Exponential** Functions: a^x, e^x , etc.
4. **Modulus** Function: $|x|, |2x + 3|$, etc.

Definition 5 The set of definition of f , denoted D_f , is the set of elements in I that have **exactly one image** in J under the function f . It is written as

Graph of a function

Definition 6 Let $f : D_f \rightarrow J \subset \mathbb{R}$. The graph of f or the representative curve of f , denoted G_f , is a subset of the set $D_f \times J$ given by

$$G_f = \{(x, f(x)) : x \in D_f\}$$

Definition 7 In mathematics,

1. the (1) is **one-to-one or injective** is a function f that maps **distinct elements** of its domain to **distinct** elements; that is,

$$x_1 \neq x_2 \Rightarrow f(x_1) \neq f(x_2)$$

2. the (1) is **surjective** (also known as surjection, or **onto function**) is a function f such that, for every element y of the **function's codomain**, there **exists at least one element** x in the function's domain such that $f(x) = y$

$$\forall y \in J : \exists x \in D_f, y = f(x)$$

3. the (1) is a **bijection** if it is both one to one and surjection

1.1 Composition of Functions

Definition 8 Let $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $g : J \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be two functions such that

$$f(I) \subset J.$$

The composite function of f and g , denoted $g \circ f$ (read as g **circle** f), is defined for all $x \in I$ by

$$(g \circ f)(x) = g(f(x)).$$

It has the form

$$\begin{aligned} g \circ f &: I \rightarrow J \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \\ x &\mapsto f(x) \mapsto g(f(x)) \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 9 *Let the function*

$$f :]0, +\infty[\rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

be given with the formula

$$f\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) = x + \sqrt{1 + x^2}$$

find the formula of f

Solution 10

$$\begin{aligned} f\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) &= x + \sqrt{1 + x^2} \\ &= x \left(1 + \sqrt{\frac{1}{x^2} + 1}\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{\frac{1}{x}} \left(1 + \sqrt{\frac{1}{x^2} + 1}\right) \end{aligned}$$

it follows that

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{x} + \sqrt{x^2 + 1}$$

Exercise 11 *Let the function*

$$f :]0, +\infty[\rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

be given with the formula

$$f(x - 2) = \frac{1}{x + 3}, x \neq -3$$

find the formula of f

Solution 12 *Putting*

$$t = x - 2$$

we get

$$x = t + 2$$

clearly if $x \neq -3$ then $t \neq -5$. Hence

$$f(t) = \frac{1}{t + 5}, t \neq -5$$

Exercise 13 *Let the function*

$$f : \mathbb{R} - \{-1\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R};$$

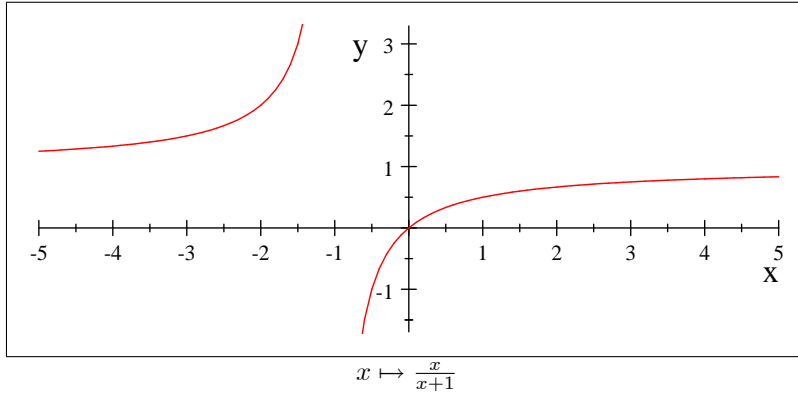
be given with the formula

$$f(x) = \frac{x}{x+1}, x \neq -1$$

find the function $f_n, n \in \mathbb{N}$ where

$$f_1 = f; f_2 = f \circ f, \dots$$

Solution 14 The range of the function f is $\mathbb{R} - \{-1\}$



then it holds

$$\begin{aligned} f_2(x) &= (f \circ f)(x) = f[f(x)] \\ &= f\left[\frac{x}{x+1}\right] = \frac{\frac{x}{x+1}}{1 + \frac{x}{x+1}} = \frac{1}{1+2x}. \end{aligned}$$

thought the definition of f_2 reduces the domain to the set

$$\mathbb{R} - \left\{-1, -\frac{1}{2}\right\}.$$

by induction we will prove the following assertion

$$P(n) : f_n(x) = \frac{1}{1+nx}, \mathbb{R} - \left\{-1, -\frac{1}{2}, \dots, -\frac{1}{n}\right\}, n > 1$$

We just proved that $P(2)$ (base case). Suppose it holds true for $P(n)$ (induction hypothesis) Then

$$P(n+1) : f_{n+1}(x) = f_n\left[\frac{1}{1+nx}\right] = \frac{\frac{1}{1+nx}}{1 + \frac{1}{1+nx}} = \frac{1}{1+(n+1)x}, \mathbb{R} - \left\{-1, -\frac{1}{2}, \dots, -\frac{1}{n}, -\frac{1}{n+1}\right\}, n > 1$$

1.2 Even and Odd Functions

Definition 15 Let $f : I \rightarrow J$ be a real function such that the domain I is **symmetric** with respect to the origin, i.e., for all $x \in I$, $-x \in I$. We say that:

1. f is **even** if for all $x \in I$, $f(-x) = f(x)$.
2. f is **odd** if for all $x \in I$, $f(-x) = -f(x)$.

Remark 16 Geometrically

1. Any constant function on I is even
2. If f is **even**, its graph is symmetric with respect to **the y -axis**.
3. If f is **odd**, its graph is symmetric with respect to **the origin**

Example 17 Show that function

$$f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R};$$

given by

$$f(x) = g(|x|)$$

is an even function for any function

$$g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}.$$

In fact, for every $x \in \mathbb{R}$:

$$f(-x) = g(|-x|) = g(|x|) = f(x)$$

Example 18 The function

$$f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R};$$

given by

$$f(x) = \frac{e^{2x} - 1}{e^{2x} + 1}$$

is an odd function. In fact

$$f(-x) = \frac{e^{-2x} - 1}{e^{-2x} + 1} = \frac{e^{-2x}(1 - e^{2x})}{e^{-2x}(1 + e^{2x})} = \frac{(1 - e^{2x})}{(1 + e^{2x})} = -\frac{(e^{2x} - 1)}{(1 + e^{2x})} = -f(x)$$

Example 19 Let $f, g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ two real odd functions. What about $f \circ g$?

$$(f \circ g)(-x) = f[g(-x)] = f[-g(x)] = -f[g(x)]$$

1.3 Periodic Functions

Definition 20 Let $f : D_f \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a real function. Let $T \in \mathbb{R}_+^*$ such that for all

$$x \in I, x \pm T \in I.$$

f is called T -periodic if for all $x \in D_f$,

$$f(x \pm T) = f(x).$$

Exercise 21 Study the periodicity of the functions

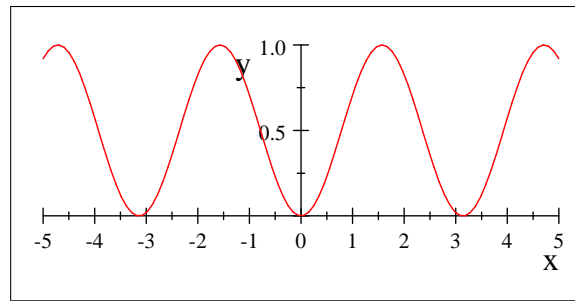
$$f(x) = \sin^2(x) \quad g(x) = \sin(x^2) \quad h(x) = \sin(|x|)$$

Solution 22 It holds that

1.

$$f(x) = \sin^2(x) = \frac{1 - \cos(2x)}{2}$$

since the function $x \mapsto \cos(2x)$ is periodic with a period π . Then, f is also periodic with basic period π . $\sin^2(x)$

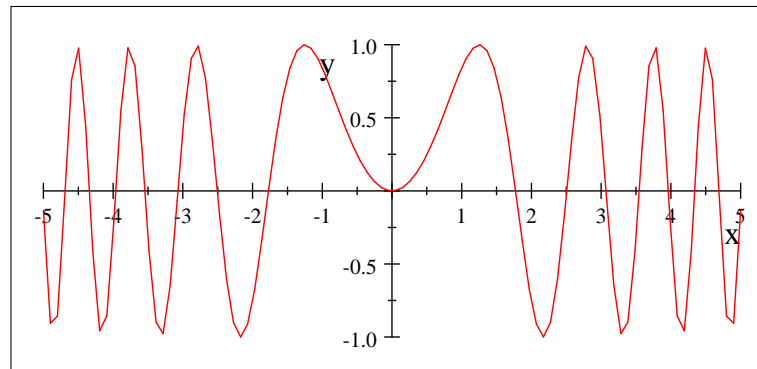


$$x \mapsto \sin^2(x)$$

2. The zeros of $g(x) = \sin(x^2)$ are of the form $\sqrt{k\pi}, k \in \mathbb{N}$. We show that the distance between zeros tends to 0.

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \sqrt{(k+1)\pi} - \sqrt{k\pi} = \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{(k+1)\pi} + \sqrt{k\pi}} = 0.$$

This implies that this function is not periodic



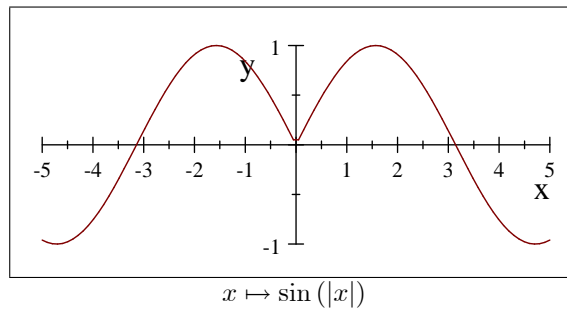
$$x \mapsto \sin(x^2)$$

3. Only π and 2π are candidates as periods of this function. However

$$h\left(-\frac{\pi}{2}\right) = 1, h\left(-\frac{\pi}{2} + 2\pi\right) = h\left(-\frac{3\pi}{2}\right) = -1$$

$$h\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, h\left(\frac{\pi}{4} + \pi\right) = h\left(\frac{5\pi}{4}\right) = -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$$

Hence, it is not a periodic function.

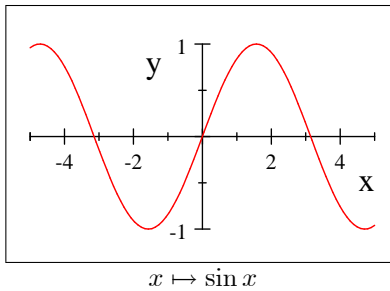


1.4 Monotony of functions

Definition 23 Consider $f : D_f \subset \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Let $x_1, x_2 \in M$. Then.:

1. f is called increasing function if and only for all $x_1 \leq x_2 \Rightarrow f(x_1) \leq f(x_2)$.
2. f is called decreasing function if and only if all $x_1 \leq x_2 \Rightarrow f(x_1) \geq f(x_2)$.
3. f is **monotonic** if and only if f is increasing or decreasing

Remark 24 Every monotonic function is injective but the converse is not true. In fact, consider the function $x \mapsto \sin(x)$ in the interval $]0, 2\pi[$. The sine function is **one-to-one** over this interval (since each unique x -value maps to a unique y -value), but it is not strictly monotonic, because it increases from 0 to $\frac{\pi}{2}$, decreases from $\frac{\pi}{2}$ to $\frac{3\pi}{2}$, and then increases again from $\frac{3\pi}{2}$ to 2π .



1.5 Bounded Function, Upper Bounded, Lower Bounded, Bounded

Definition 25 Let $f : D_f \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a real function. f is called:

1. upper-bounded if and only if **there exists** $M \in \mathbb{R}$ such that **for every** $x \in D_f$, $f(x) \leq M$.
2. lower-bounded if and only if there exists $m \in \mathbb{R}$ such that for every $x \in D_f$, $f(x) \geq m$.
3. bounded if and only if there exist $M, m \in \mathbb{R}$ such that for every $x \in D_f$, $m \leq f(x) \leq M$.

Remark 26 f is called bounded if and only if $|f|$ is upper-bounded.